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Special Issue of JSC on "Symbolic Computation in Combinatorics" —Foreword of the Editor-in-Chief

The mathematical foundation and design of algorithms for handling combinatorial identities is a research topic that does not have a long tradition. Only recently, some major breakthroughs have been made in this area. However, the topic is doubtlessly in the center of the scope of symbolic computation and we were eager to encourage consolidation of this new branch of symbolic computation research by organizing this special issue of the Journal of Symbolic Computation.

Inclusion of a special issue into the sequence of issues of the Journal of Symbolic Computation has three objectives:

- By soliciting papers, intensified research in this new area should be stimulated that helps the field develop from the "in statu nascendi" stage to an established stage.
- Researchers interested in the field should obtain an easy access to a significant piece of state-of-the-art research in the field.
- The special issue should stimulate more research in this area in the future and demonstrate that the Journal of Symbolic Computation wishes to be an active publication forum for pertinent papers. Thus, the special issue should not be considered as a final documentation of available results but rather should be the starting point for having more papers from this area in the journal.

We are happy that two of the most active researchers in this area agreed to organize this special issue, as guest editors, for the Journal of Symbolic Computation and we are proud to add this special issue to a set of previous special issues of the journal (on the following topics: applied rewriting; algorithmic methods in number theory; algorithms in real algebraic geometry; computational aspects of commutative algebra; unification; computational algebraic complexity; computational group theory; computational geometry; rewriting in theorem proving; invariant theoretic algorithms in geometry) that meanwhile have all created significant stimulation for their respective research fields.

Bruno Buchberger
(Editor-in-Chief of the Journal
of Symbolic Computation)

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